

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) A method of transmitting audio information, the method comprising:

modifying an original audio stream having audio information encoded into audio blocks that include one or more encoded values into a modified stream and complementary information, wherein a format of the modified stream corresponds to a format [[of]] into which the audio blocks are organized in the original audio stream, wherein the modified stream is distorted with respect to the original audio stream by modifying at least one encoded value of an audio block of the original audio stream, and wherein the complementary information provides information to permit a decoder to reconstitute the original audio stream from the modified stream;

transmitting the modified stream to target equipment; and

transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information to the target equipment.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information to the target equipment comprises:

accessing a data profile of the target equipment; and

determining, based on the data profile, the subset of the complementary information to be transmitted to the target equipment.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein accessing a data profile includes accessing a data profile that comprises at least one component that relates to the target equipment and that is selected from the group consisting of: payment data; preferences; environment; habits; and characteristics.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein accessing a data profile comprises accessing at least a portion of said data profile that is retrieved from the target equipment.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein accessing a data profile includes accessing a data profile that includes an indication of rights of a user to access content of the original audio stream.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting the modified stream comprises storing the modified main stream on a physical storage medium.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting the modified stream and said transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information utilize a common transmission medium.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting the modified stream and said transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information utilize separate transmission media.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information utilizes a transmission medium different from that used for said transmitting the modified stream.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein the transmission medium utilized for said transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information is selected from the group consisting of: an analog telephone line; a digital telephone line; a digital subscriber line; a local radio loop; a digital audio broadcasting channel; a commutated telephone network; and a wireless digital telecommunication network.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, further comprising:
reconstituting, at the target equipment, an audio stream using said modified stream and said at least a subset of the complementary information.
54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information includes transmitting at least one function to be used by the target equipment to reconstitute an audio stream from said modified stream and said at least a subset of the complementary information.
55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information comprises:
initially transmitting all of the complementary information to the target equipment; and
decreasing, over time, the amount of complementary information being transmitted to the target equipment.
56. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting audio information, comprising:
an audio information server, comprising:
an analysis system configured to accept an original audio stream having audio information encoded into audio blocks that include one or more encoded values and to generate a modified stream and complementary information, wherein a format of the modified stream corresponds to a format [[of]] into which the audio blocks are organized in the original audio stream, wherein the modified stream is distorted with respect to the original audio stream by modifying at least one encoded value of an audio block of the original audio stream, and wherein the complementary information provides information to permit a decoder to reconstitute the original audio stream from the modified stream;
a device configured to transmit the modified stream to target equipment; and
a device configured to transmit at least a subset of the complementary information to the target equipment.

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the audio information server is configured to access a data profile of the target equipment and to determine, based on the data profile, the subset of the complementary information to be transmitted to the target equipment.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the device configured to transmit the modified stream comprises a device configured to store the modified stream on a physical storage medium.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the device configured to transmit at least a subset of the complementary information to the target equipment comprises a device configured to transmit the at least a subset of the complementary information over a communication medium selected from the group consisting of: an analog telephone line; a digital telephone line; a digital subscriber line; a local radio loop; a digital audio broadcasting channel; a commutated telephone network; and a wireless digital telecommunication network.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said device configured to transmit at least a subset of the complementary information is configured to transmit at least one function to be used by the target equipment to reconstitute an audio stream from said modified stream and said at least a subset of the complementary information.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the audio information server is configured to:

initially transmit all of the complementary information to the target equipment; and
decrease, over time, the amount of complementary information being transmitted to the target equipment.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, further comprising:

an audio coder, coupled to the audio information server, and configured to accept an analog audio stream and to convert the analog audio stream to a digital audio stream to be used by the audio information server as said original audio stream.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the audio information server further comprises:

at least one output buffer memory coupled to receive at least said modified stream from said analysis system.

64. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for receiving transmitted audio information, comprising:

a synthesis system configured to receive a modified stream and at least a subset of a set of complementary information, wherein the modified stream and the complementary information are derived from an original audio stream having audio information encoded into audio blocks that include one or more encoded values, and configured to synthesize a reconstituted audio stream, wherein a format of the modified stream corresponds to a format ~~[[of]]~~ into which the audio blocks are organized in the original audio stream, wherein the modified stream is distorted with respect to the original audio stream by modifying at least one encoded value of an audio block of the original audio stream, and wherein the complementary information provides information to permit a decoder to reconstitute the original audio stream from the modified stream; and

at least one ~~communicative coupling to couple the synthesis system to an~~ item selected from the group consisting of a memory device, a playback device, and means for physically coupling to a communication network.

65. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the at least one item selected from the group includes the playback device, and wherein the ~~further comprising:~~

~~[[a]]~~ playback device is coupled to the synthesis system to receive the reconstituted audio stream and to play audio corresponding audio on a listening device.

66. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the at least one item selected from the group includes the memory device, and wherein the memory device comprises ~~further comprising:~~

at least one buffer memory to receive and store the modified stream or the received at least a subset of the set of complementary information, wherein said at least one buffer memory is coupled to said synthesis system.

67. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, further comprising:
means for coupling a smart card to the synthesis system.

68. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the smart card is configured with [[a]] the data profile.

69. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein said complementary information includes at least one function to be used by the synthesis system to synthesize the reconstituted audio stream from said modified stream and said at least a subset of the complementary information.